

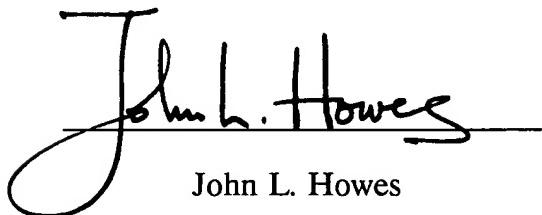
In the United States Patent and Trademark Office

Applicant: John L. Howes
Title: Containerized Liquid Coating Product Supply Business Method

DECLARATION

I, John L. Howes, citizen of the United States of America, resident of Gross Pointe, Michigan, further possessing as legal residential and postal address 19967 Doyle Place East, Grosse Pointe Woods, MI 48236, hereby declare that I am the sole inventor and believe that I am the original and first inventor of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought, said subject matter being expressed in the specification contained in the Application for Patent attached hereto entitled 'Containerized Liquid Coating Product Supply Business Method'. I further declare that I have reviewed and understand the contents of said specification, including the claims, and I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to the examination of the application in accordance with 37 CFR 1.56(a).

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Title 18 USC 1001, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the Application or any Patent issued thereon.


John L. Howes

4/3/2000

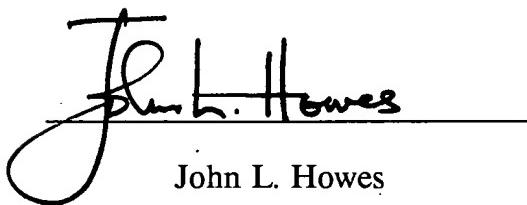
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Title: Containerized Liquid Coating Product Supply Business Method

POWER OF ATTORNEY

I, John L. Howes, the undersigned, sole inventor of the present subject matter disclosed in the attached Application for Patent entitled 'Containerized Liquid Coating Product Supply Business Method' and Applicant for the same, do hereby affirm that the services of Peter Gibson, registered Patent Agent No. 34,605, have been employed for the preparation and filing of said application for patent and further, do respectfully request that Peter Gibson be recognized by the Patent and Trademark Office as the duly authorized Agent of Record for filing and prosecution of the application for patent entitled 'Containerized Liquid Coating Product Supply Business Method' as of this date and until further notice to the contrary.


John L. Howes

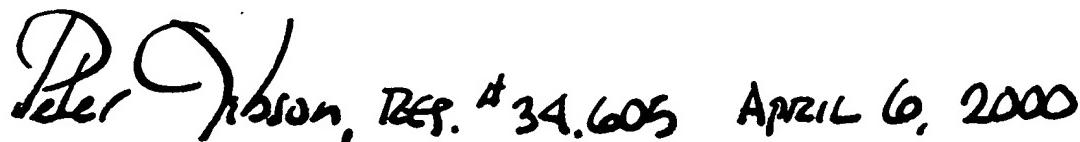
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dated

I, Peter Gibson, registered Patent Agent No. 34,605, do hereby affirm acceptance of the responsibility for the preparation, filing and prosecution of the enclosed Application for Patent entitled 'Containerized Liquid Coating Product Supply Business Method' and do hereby respectfully request that all correspondence emanating from the U.S. Patent Office concerning said application be addressed to:

Peter Gibson, #307
6316 Greenspring Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21209

Phone No.: 410\358-5912.


Peter Gibson, Reg. #34,605 April 6, 2000

In the United States Patent and Trademark Office

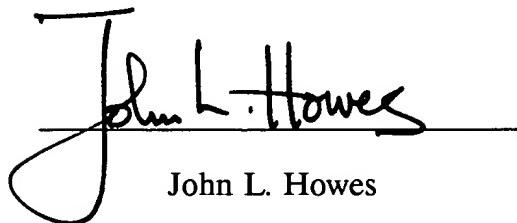
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Title: Containerized Liquid Coating Product Supply Business Method

Small Entity Declaration - Independent Inventor

I, John L. Howes, sole inventor, hereby declare that I qualify as an independent inventor as defined in 37 CFR 1.9(c) for purposes of paying reduced fees under 35 USC 41(a) & (b), to the PTO with regard to my above identified invention described in the specification filed herewith. I have not assigned, granted, conveyed, or licensed, and am not under any obligation under any contract or law to assign, grant, convey or license, any rights in the invention to any entity which would not qualify as a small entity.

I acknowledge a duty to file, in the above application for patent, notification of any change in status resulting in loss of entitlement to small entity status prior to paying, or at the time of paying, the earliest of the issue fee or any maintenance fee due after the date on which status as a small entity is no longer appropriate. (37 CFR 1.28(b))

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Title 18 USC 1001, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.



John L. Howes

4/3/2000

dated

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Applicant: John L. Howes
Title: Containerized Liquid Coating Product Supply Business Method

ASSIGNMENT

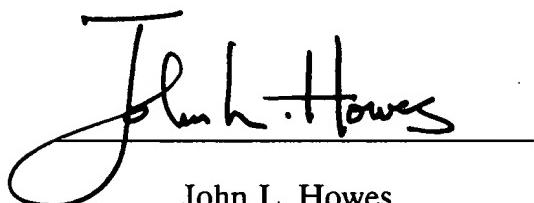
I, John L. Howes, citizen of the United States of America, resident of Gross Pointe, Michigan, further possessing as legal residential and postal address 19967 Doyle Place East, Grosse Pointe Woods, MI 48236, Sole Inventor and Applicant for the invention claimed in the Application for Patent attached hereto entitled 'Containerized Liquid Coating Product Supply Business Method' do with my dated signature below assign full title of any and all patents resulting there from the above identified application for patent to:

Colors Direct, L.L.C.

a limited liability corporation incorporated in the State of Michigan and possessing as a legal business address:

1314 Tavistock Place
East Lansing, MI 48823.

In assignment as described above I do hereby affix my dated signature below.



John L. Howes

4/3/2000

dated